

## A Synoptic Study of 1 Timothy

### Introduction to 1 Timothy

#### The Personalities:

**Apostle Paul**-Apostle to Gentiles

**Timothy**- Paul led him to Lord in Lystra on the second missionary journey. Considered Paul's spiritual son. Greek father, Jewish Christian mother Eunice. Paul had Timothy circumcised for synagogue entry. Considered young. He was Paul's leadership placement in Ephesus.

**Ephesian church**- prominent coastal city in Asia Minor (today Turkey). Goddess Artemus headquarters. Ref. Acts 19. Rapid church growth but came with several issues. This early church struggled to maintain orthodoxy in the face of various heresies and cultural influences.

**Believers today**—Church polity including leadership, orthodox doctrine, Gnosticism, practical Christian living, interpersonal relationships, unity of the faith.

### Chapter 1

V. 1 Paul signed his authorship in the first verse. Written around A.D. 62-64, about 2 years earlier than writing 2 Timothy. "Apostle" means, "sent out one." Acts 9:15, ***But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel."*** The closest position to apostleship today is our missionaries, with churches sending them out to spread the gospel in unreached areas. Paul was commissioned/ordained as an apostle by direct command of Jesus. Thus, he carried apostolic authority. Apostleship is not so much a position but a mission. A mission has purpose and is a command, not an invitation. "Go...make disciples, teach, baptize..."

**What was the apostle Paul's mission? What is the mission of pastor? Church? What has Christ called you to do (i.e., your mission)?**

**Note:** God and Jesus are the same. Savior, our hope. Without God, all life is hopeless.

V. 2 Recipient of the letter (i.e., epistle) was Timothy, Paul's convert from Lystra and traveling companion on Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journeys. Paul sent Timothy with authority to straighten and lead the church as it faced difficult issues (false teaching, paganism, Gnosticism, secularism, etc.).

**What worldly pressures does the church face today?**

Paul mentioned three terms imparted upon Timothy:

1. Grace—the unmerited favor of God.
2. Mercy—the pardon and justification of God.
3. Peace—the consequence of receiving God's grace and mercy.

Paul was a great encouragement to Timothy as Timothy led the Ephesian church.

**Name one person that has encouraged you in your Christian walk and/or ministry**

V. 3 Paul was particularly distressed about some men teaching “strange” or false doctrine. Four types of false teachings in the early church:

1. **Law + Grace**, a works-based salvation. Eph. 2:8-9, ***For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*** Promoted by Judaizers.
2. **Gnosticism**. From Gr. *gnosis* meaning, “knowledge.” It was denial of the divine/human Jesus. 1 John 4:2, ***By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.***
3. **Licentiousness**. Sin as much as you want, for it has been covered by grace. Rom. 6:1-2, ***Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?***
4. **Twisting Scripture** to meet one’s agenda. 2 Tim. 4:3-4, ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires and will turn their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.***

Without sound teaching in the church, falsehood will creep in and distort the truth.

**What is the danger of having new believers in teaching roles? How important is it for the church to vet preachers/teachers?**

Vv. 4-5 Grace is God’s response to salvation. Faith is man’s response. The cross is God’s grace given to man. Faith is the reception of God’s grace. One might call it, “whole-hearted faith.” True faith is “obedient faith.” In other words, obedience is the fruit of faith.

**What motivates one to correct false teaching and to rebuke “strange doctrine”?**

All people who have the breath of God in them are immortal. Only two eternal destinies exist for people: 1. Eternal life with God in righteousness; 2. Eternal condemnation separated from God in unrighteousness. When people die in sin, they go to Hades, awaiting eternal sentencing in the lake of fire. When people die in Christ, they go to Paradise, awaiting eternal life in the new heaven and earth. Love motivates directing people to truth so they can live eternally with Christ in heaven and not be condemned to eternal damnation in the lake of fire.

**Where does God’s love want man to be? Where does our love want man to be? 1 Tim. 2:4, *who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

Vv. 6-8 Christ is the fulfillment of the Law. The Law is good in that it shows God’s love (John 3:16) in leading men to repentance and His Son so that they can have eternal life and joy. The Law is also good in showing man the judgment of God upon sin and the rejection of His Son. This is using the Law correctly. The Law was not designed for ceremonial function. False teachers say the Law is good, but they use it in the wrong manner. Think of the Pharisees or legalism in churches today. The Law points man toward God’s forgiveness in His Son through repentance and faith but warns of punishment for transgressors. GOD WON’T LET SIN JUST PASS!

Vv. 9-10 The Law leads sinners such as this list to repentance, a change of heart toward righteousness. Perhaps Paul addressed some of the sins prevalent among those in Ephesus.

V. 11-16 Paul was extremely grateful that God saved a sinner such as he was. Paul received God's grace and forgiveness because of the work of Christ. Christ died for the worst of sinners!

**How did Paul view the Scriptures pre-salvation and post-salvation? Comment on V. 13.**

Some view the Scriptures, especially the commands of God, only as rules, regulations instead of God's gift of His word coming from His heart of love. **Why do we have the Scriptures?**

The truths in verse 15 summed up:

- Jesus was pre-eminent as the Word of God (He came into the world).
- If there were no sin, Christ would not have left glory, nor would He have come into the world.
- Every human is a sinner.
- Every human needs the Savior.
- Jesus' work on the cross is for every human.
- Paul said, "I am" not "I was" a sinner.
- No sin is too far from God's grace.

**How do we see God's mercy in Paul's life? His grace? His peace?**

Paul's command to Timothy while leading the Ephesian church—"fight the good fight." The "fight is against evil, against sin, against false doctrine and teaching, against disgruntlement and disunity. Every faithful pastor in Christ's church has to "fight the good fight." Paul's command to Timothy is to teach and maintain true doctrine. It is a war that Timothy is fighting. It is a war of souls and the defense of the Gospel. It is a good battle to wage, a righteous cause. The "good fight" is the one over truth, the one against evil. Eph. 6:12, ***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.***

Vv. 19-20 Paul uses an illustration of a ship. An unanchored ship is subject to being tossed to and fro by changing winds and waves. One must anchor himself in the true Word, sound doctrine of faith in Christ. Not to do so endangers one's faith to fail. Paul gave two personal illustrations of church leaders in Ephesus who have failed Christ.

**To anchor oneself in the true faith, read all of Eph. 6:10-17.**

**Notes:**